**Common Core Lesson:** Artistic Expression: Self Portrait

**Course**: Painting 7th grade

**Essential Question**: How do artists express themselves through the work they create?

**Objective**: Determine the message being portrayed by the artist in a piece of artwork.

**Vocabulary**: portrait, self-portrait, elements of art, color, space, principles of design, expression

**Projects:**

Students will participate in common core exercises to help them understand how artists express themselves through the creation of a self portrait. Students will be invited to then express themselves by creating their own portrait.

**Assessments/ rubrics:**

Vocabulary quiz

Rubric (to evaluate personal artwork)

Reflection Questions (based on the creation process)

Lesson Plan:

Introduction:

Introduce students to three self portraits by two different artists. Project the two portraits up beside each other. Engage the students in a class discussion about the similarities and differences. (Example: Frida Kahlo and Vincent Van Gogh)

  [](http://www.google.com/imgres?safe=active&sa=X&rls=com.microsoft:en-us:IE-SearchBox&biw=1024&bih=557&tbm=isch&tbnid=bir9m73I0tr9oM:&imgrefurl=http://www.aliexpress.com/cp/compare-frida-kahlo-famous-painting.html&docid=bqyLXcfd_M3f4M&imgurl=http://i01.i.aliimg.com/wsphoto/v0/1013155963/-font-b-Famous-b-font-oil-font-b-painting-b-font-reproduction-Self-Portrait-with.jpg&w=632&h=800&ei=OW6GUoiQLZPpkQf414CgDA&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=683&vpy=150&dur=1734&hovh=253&hovw=199&tx=71&ty=83&page=2&tbnh=146&tbnw=121&start=22&ndsp=28&ved=1t:429,r:41,s:0,i:210)   

**Class Discussion Questions** (verbal):

Ask students to carefully examine the paintings as a whole and do not provide them with any information about the works.

What genre of painting is this

Which painting do you think was painted first?

Do these portraits have a lot in common?

What adjectives could you use to describe the works?

Determine which elements and principles the artists used. This will help us understand the decisions each artists made in order to effectively express themselves?

How did the artist position him or herself in relation to the viewer?

How did the artist incorporate arms and hands in their portrait?

What did you see in the environment around each subject?

Consider that these portraits are painted by painters of the opposite sex and living in different countries.

What does the artists’ use of elements and principles in each work tell you about the kind of techniques painters use and the decisions painters make about how to use those techniques?

Discuss the titles of each work and what the titles suggests about the artists.

**Students answer these questions in an independent writing exercise**:

Were the artists trying to paint themselves accurately or where they developing a fictional identity through their work?

Is a self-portrait more like a memoir or a poem? Why or why not? Cite evidence from the works to support your opinion?

Why might a painter paint a self-portrait? Is it always to capture how they looked and felt?

**Common Core Alignment**:

R:1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

W:1

Create Personal Self-portrait

1. Make a list of personal information (30 items) (examples: age, favorite food, hair color, gender, year born, place born, pet’s name…..)
2. Use a magazine to find words from your list
3. Create a 2 inch border collage frame using the magazine clippings.
4. Students will bring in a photograph of themselves. Enlarge the image 8 x 10 and make two copies (black and white on the copy machine).
5. Students will use water color to paint over the image. (like tinting a black and white photo)
6. The images must be completely different colors.
7. Use a ruler to measure the images into 1 inch strips. One image needs to be horizontal strips and the other needs to be vertical strips.
8. Weave the strips together.
9. Glue the final image into your collage frame.

Rubric to evaluate personal artwork:

On a scale of one to 10, please evaluate your efforts:

\_\_\_Class time was used wisely.

\_\_\_The student shows respect for the art room, materials, the instructor, and classmates.

\_\_\_The student followed directions.

\_\_\_The student has been inspired by the topic studied before starting their project.

\_\_\_The student has shown creativity in their work.

\_\_\_The student has shown good craftsmanship.

Student will write a reflection based on the following questions:

1. **Use 3 sentences to describe the project.**
2. **Use 2 sentences to explain what you enjoyed the most about creating this piece of artwork.**
3. **In 2 sentences explain how your artwork is unique (different).**
4. **If you were going to create this piece of art again, what would you do differently?**
5. **Tell people viewing your art something interesting about your work.**
6. **Name a principle of design that you used. Explain how you used it.**
7. **Name an element you used in your art work and explain how your used it.**
8. **Explain how this piece of art work is different than the last piece of art you created in this class.**
9. **What have you learned from creating this piece of art that you will use in this class or outside of this class.**
10. **What did you like or not like about the materials you used to create this piece of art? What other materials could you have used?**